

graciousness for which she is widely cherished and with the modesty that gets big jobs done in public health, Mrs. Winslow said she looked upon the citation honoring her as an encouragement to those who strive to see "that the citizen stand squarely behind the professional staff in its efforts to render increasingly effective service."

Fake Medical Devices: A Health Hazard

MANY modern technics and tools in medical diagnosis and treatment are possible only because of the discovery and application of electricity. An outstanding example is the x-ray machine, an important means for detection and therapy, which has saved millions of lives. Yet alongside such legitimate devices is a shadowy realm filled with a host of fake medical devices that are alleged to cure practically every ailment known to man.

In 1938, Congress included in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act authority over all devices used to diagnose and treat disease. At that time there were articles on the market alleged to cure a wide variety of ailments by the use of colored lights, radio waves, heat, vibration and massage, and such dangerous gases as chlorine and ozone. In the 23 years since the Food and Drug Administration was given authority to deal with these matters, hundreds of such devices have been prevented from circulating in interstate traffic.

These health and medical swindles have been exposed in court actions and the perpetrators have been dealt with by means of injunctions, fines, and prison terms.

Among the more picturesque devices for the gullible was Ferguson's Zerret Applicator. This was a plastic device shaped like a dumbbell and containing a glass tube of "Zerret Water," which was alleged to produce the "Z-ray, a

force unknown to science." Thousands of midwesterners paid \$50 for the device, and were told it could cure all diseases and restore perfect health by expanding the atoms of the body. After it had been shown that Zerret Water and Chicago faucet water had the same composition, the perpetrators of the fraud went to jail.

Despite the actions of the Food and Drug Administration, however, worthless medical devices are still extant and in use throughout the United States. Relying on devices of this kind for diagnosis or treatment of disease is highly dangerous to anyone with a serious ailment. The public should be warned against such devices. Recently the Food and Drug Administration issued a list of fake medical devices and health authorities are urged to consult it.

APHA Relations with Students

A CHANGE in the By-Laws of the American Public Health Association, approved by the Governing Council, has eliminated student members as constituents of the Association. This action has been deplored by some on the ground that we have thereby cut our only tie with students. Apparently some of the members of the Association are not aware of the extent to which students from schools of public health and other professional schools participate in our Annual Meeting.

For this reason it may be of interest to recapitulate some of the facts of student participation in the Detroit Meeting.

Free student registration was offered to the following. (There were approximately 400 "takers"):

- School of Public Health—University of Pittsburgh
- School of Public Health—University of Michigan
- Medical School—University of Michigan
- School of Dentistry—University of Michigan
- School of Dentistry—University of Detroit